

Pacific Flyway – Milltown Reservoir Closure Area

Background

Canada geese, like many wildlife species, had extremely low populations during the early part of the last century. Wildlife restoration work was initiated in the mid to late 1900's to restore this species over much of its range. As part of these restoration efforts in the northern Rocky Mountains, Canada goose populations in the Missoula valley were augmented in the early 1980s by translocation of flightless birds into the Milltown Reservoir area. In conjunction with these releases, a hunting closure specific to all geese was put into place at Milltown Reservoir in 1980. These Canada goose restoration efforts were highly successful, and the Missoula area currently supports healthy Canada goose populations. Therefore, this hunting closure specific to geese is no longer needed. In addition, on-going restoration efforts in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin to remove toxic mine tailings have resulted in the removal of the Montana Power Dam and the former railroad bridge supports, which were some of the landmarks used to delineate the closure area. This area has remained open to hunting for other waterfowl species. Elimination of this exception will simplify waterfowl regulations for the Pacific Flyway, and provide some additional hunting opportunity for waterfowl hunters.